

Remarks

ELECTION/RESTRICTION:

Applicant would like to clarify their right to reintroduce restricted claims that have been previously cancelled conditional upon the allowance of a generic claim. Applicant believes that independent claims 15 and 34 are currently generic. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

SPECIFICATION OBJECTIONS:

Claim 2 has been objected to for using the abbreviation "MR". With this amendment claim 2 has been cancelled, but all other claims utilizing the term "slider/MR head" have been amended to "slider" for clarity.

Claims 2 and 8 have been objected to for using the term "the back" rather than "the back side" as it is used antecedently. With this amendment, claims 2 and 8 have been cancelled, but the term "back" or "back side" has been amended to "top" in all other claims. Further, the specification has been amended to make clear that the surface of the slider facing the suspension can be referred to as back or top.

Claims 15 and 28 is objected to for the use of the phrases "opposing front and back side" and "the back". With this amendment both of said phrases have been deleted from the claims.

Claim 16 is objected to for use of the phrase "at least one bond." With this amendment, that phrase in claim 16 now reads "at least one bond pad."

Applicant believes that each objection has been addressed and cured, therefore Applicant asks that all objections be withdrawn and a notice to that effect.

CLAIM REJECTIONS:

Claims 2-3 and 28-33 are currently rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Zarouri et al. (US 5,771,138). Although claims 2-3 and 28-33 have been cancelled by this amendment, Applicant would like to traverse the Zarouri reference in regard to independent claims 15 and 34.

Independent claims 15 and 34 both recite, in part, a slider having a flex

circuit with a first and second surface. The first surface of the flex circuit is attached to the top of the slider and either conductive material or an interconnect pad is positioned on the second surface. Therefore, the interconnect pad or the conductive material that is positioned on the flex circuit must be facing the suspension which facilitates for a efficient and cost effective way to build a head gimbal assembly (see generally page 13 of the detailed description).

Zarouri discloses, in figure 1E and associated description, a flex circuit 8 that is attached to flexure 6. Figure 1E further shows conductors 9 which provide for an electrical connection between the transducing wires and the slider bond pads. Upon a closer review of figure 1E, it is apparent that conductors 9 are routed between the slider and the flex circuit, and therefore does not disclose the above mentioned limitation in claims 15 and 34. Further, claim 15 and 34 recite an interconnect pad positioned on the flex circuit for electrical connection to the conductive material on the suspension. Zarouri fails to disclose this limitation as well. Because Zarouri does not disclose, teach or suggest all the limitation in claims 15 and 34, there can be no anticipation. The Applicant respectfully requests the rejection be withdrawn and a notice to that effect.

Claims 15 and 28-29 are currently rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Anderson et al. (US 5,768,062). Applicant would like to traverse the Anderson reference in regard to independent claims 15 and 34.

The Office Action on page 6 (paper 21) states that Anderson teaches "a flex circuit (5b) attached to the back side of the slider/magnetic recording head (as shown in FIG. 5, for instance)..." A review of the Anderson reference reveals that 5b is a gimbal spring, not a flex circuit. Because Andersons does not disclose, teach or suggest a flex circuit attached to the top of the slider, it cannot anticipate claim 15 (or 34) of the present invention. Applicant respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn and a notice to that effect.

Claim 2 is currently rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hanrahan et al. (US 5,896,248). Although claim 2 has been cancelled by this

amendment, Applicant would like to traverse the Hanrahan reference in regard to independent claims 15 and 34.

The Office Action on page 7 (paper 21) states that Hanrahan teaches "a flex circuit 102 attached to the back side of the slider/MR head (as shown in FIGS. 1-2 and 4, for instance)..." A review of the Hanrahan reference reveals that 102 is a flexure which can be coated with a flexible laminate (column 3, lines 33-35). But, Hanrahan fails to disclose, teach or suggest a flex circuit attached to the top of the slider, and therefore Hanrahan cannot anticipate claims 15 or 34 of the present invention. Applicant respectfully request a notice to that effect.

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Date: September 3, 2004

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8

Date of Deposit: September 3, 2004

I hereby certify that this Response and the documents referred to as attached therein are being transmitted via facsimile Under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Mail Stop RCE to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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